

Dear Esteemed Members of the Commerce Committee,

**I strongly oppose HB 5263.**

- The three largest producers of rabbit meat for consumption are: China, North Korea, and Egypt. The last thing, I think we should be doing here in Connecticut is emulating those countries practices which can be directly linked to statements from the following Washington Post article. (Dated April 24, 1984, written by Dana Marie Stuchell.)
- “Unlike the cases of other animals raised for human consumption, it is impossible to raise rabbits profitably under “humane” conditions.
- “Pesticides are also routinely used in commercial rabbitries, and when they volatilize into the air, they are absorbed by the rabbits and may later be passed on to humans who consume them. These problems are compounded in the case of rabbits because of the great efficiency of their large intestine in absorbing substances and the fact that they reingest part of their feces, which results in the internal recycling of drugs and pesticides as well. Dr. Terry Reed, president of the American Rabbit Breeders Association, and veterinarian, has stated: "Rabbit raisers are the biggest drug abusers I know."

“Traditionally a symbol of love, peace, and joy, the rabbit is looked upon by most Americans as a fringe member of the pet population. Because Americans do not eat their pets, they do not, for the most part, eat rabbits.”

In my view, this bill is a step backward. Please, **oppose HB 5263**

Sincerely,

Lori Nicholson

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